

**REMARKS**

Claims 6, 9 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, claims 6-13 are currently pending in the above-identified application.

**Priority**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

**Claim Objections**

Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections.

**35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 6-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Towa KK (JP 03-202327) in view of Nakamura (JP 35-912644). This rejection is traversed as follows.

According to the present invention, the sheet is capable of impregnating and permeating plural openings in the material that forms the sheet. A cleaning resin is used as the cleaning sheet and the cleaning resin permeates into fine

portions, such as inside air vents or at the periphery of cavities between mating surfaces of a molding die and is also firmly entangled to the cleaning sheet. This way it can be removed reliably without being left on the mating surfaces of the mold when the cleaning sheet is removed (see specification, page 24, lines 9-18). The filling material that is previously mixed with the cleaning resin improves the cleaning ability because the filler material can rub surface of the mold during the flow of the molten resin (see specification, page 25, line 15 to page 26, line 1).

On the other hand, Towa discloses a cleaning sheet having through holes 20 as paths for a cleaning resin. Towa discloses that the sheet can be made of a porous material which substantially works as paths for the cleaning resin. However, when using Towa's cleaning sheet, the effect of the cleaning is significantly lower because the flow velocity is decreased by the resistance of the cleaning sheet against the resin flow inside the cavity. Furthermore, the rubbing effect of the filler in a slow current is also significantly reduced.

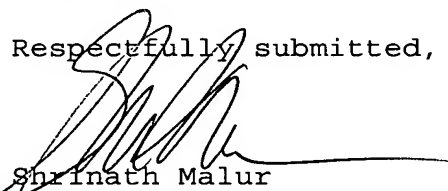
The deficiencies in Towa are not overcome by resort to Nakamura. Nakamura does not disclose that the velocity of a cleaning resin containing fillers is an important factor in cleaning ability. Since the flow velocity of the cleaning

resin in Towa's cleaning sheet is significantly reduced, if the teaching of Nakamura is applied to Towa's manufacturing process, the cleaning ability of the fillers is not effectively reduced. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants content that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Shrinath Malur  
Registration No. 34,663  
Attorney for Applicant

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR  
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
(703) 684-1120  
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